

Questions and Answers from Choosing a Secondary School – June 2023

- 1. Do distance criteria apply for children with EHCPs? Do we have a choice of 2 or 3 schools for children with EHCP? Do you get the blue form in September of Y6? What if your nearest school is very Christian and you are Jewish? If your child has an EHCP in Y6, you will be sent a blue form in September. You chose 2 schools for us to consult, and we will also consult your local school if it is not one you have expressed a preference for. If you have a faith preference this will be used to determine 'local' school, the same for siblings. You will not have to send your child to a faith school if you do not want to. The schools then consider all the EHCPs they have been consulted on as a cohort and see which children's needs, they can meet. If the school can't meet the needs of all the children who have expressed a preference for them, then distance will be one of several considerations in identifying which children will get the places.**
- 2. What is the likelihood of getting a place at one of those 2 schools? What if the nearest school can't meet needs?** It will depend on the number of applicants to each school and your child's needs. If we cannot offer you one of your preferred schools, then we will call you and discuss your choices.
- 3. Do special schools typically have the same catchment criteria as mainstream schools? Do you need to live in Haringey to go to riverside with an ehcp?** *No special schools don't have area catchments, but local authorities usually prioritise their own children.*
- 4. We live within catchment area of 2 too big schools for child, so won't meet their needs. Could they be accepted into a smaller school that is a bit further away from where we live? In terms of the school meeting needs I have a child with PDA profile of autism, they could not manage in school with strict behaviour policy or rigid uniform rules. Can those considerations be used to rule out a school?** *This will depend on personal circumstances. Make sure you provide professional evidence as part of the annual review process as to why you need a school with a particular environment and this will be taken into consideration.*
- 5. My son is absolutely passionate about engineering, I'd love to know if there is an engineering club? Does the school also offer pre and after school activities and things such as homework club?** *Contact the individual schools you are interested in to find out more about clubs. Secondary schools have many more staff and children so are often able to develop clubs where there is a group of children have showed an interest*
- 6. If the nearest mainstream secondary is not appropriate (poor track record in pastoral care) for a child with some SEN - mostly anxiety and mental health - but she does not have an EHCP or on the SEN register, what are the options? Without an EHCP parents can't name a school so in reality we have no choice but local school. What do we do if local school has poor SEN?** *Don't base your decisions on reputations or hearsay. Visit the schools that are local to you and talk to the staff about how they would meet your own child's needs. All Haringey secondary schools are good or outstanding and where schools need support, they have access to educational psychology support or school improvement. We have introduced a cluster group model where experienced secondary SENDCos can support less experienced ones.*
- 7. Do children who have special support during exams need to have an ehcp in place to get that support? only asking as my child is on the spectrum but has no ehcp?** *All secondary schools have a member of staff qualified in access arrangements and these are provided to any child that needs them not just those with EHCPs.*
- 8. What's the gap between being on SEN register and having and EHCP in reality?** *Your child's primary school will hold a transition meeting for any child with SEND and advise the secondary school what support the child needs. The secondary school will adapt it as the*

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child grows. Children at SEND support in Haringey make really good academic progress in secondary school.

9. **What sort of uniform adaptations do you allow? What support does haringey give to challenge mainstream school on policies such as not being flexible on uniform- which you would think would be a simple reasonable adjustment? These will be agreed as part of the child's sen support planning. Adapting uniform is a reasonable adjustment. Markfield can support you with understanding the law and give independent advice.**
10. **In terms of bespoke learning, if a child is unable to cope with PE would they be exempt? We can make an exemption but better to look at how we can support the child to engage with PE and overcome the barrier.**
11. **How are you managing EBSA Emotionally Based School Avoidance? We can look at reduced timetables, check in sessions with a key worker or mentor, counselling etc. We also use the Haringey Learning Partnership to support with EBSA.**
12. **Is there an intake limit for the number of places for children with an EHCP? There is no set limit – all children with SEND are different and some need more help than others, some work well together and some don't. Therefore, schools look at the cohort of children who have requested a place and see who they think they can meet the needs of. If a teacher has too many children with EHCPs, they may not have the capacity to adapt the curriculum effectively and give the child the individual attention they require.**
13. **Since Riverside is a special school, do certain children or kids who have an ehcp get priority to get admitted to the school? Children must have an EHCP to go to a special school. The only exception would be if they had moved in from abroad.**
14. **Does the school reach complete admission capacity quite quickly? As long as you apply by October 31st then you will be considered in the round with everyone else. If you apply late, your choices are likely to be limited as secondary schools are currently running over capacity.**
15. **Will we hear from Highgate Wood and Heartlands today? We only heard from one mainstream and one special school to give you a flavour. To find out more about other schools, read their information reports and contact them directly. [Preparing for Secondary School | Haringey Council](#)**
16. **What kind of help and assistance could receive my child in a mainstream Secondary School, example going to toilet? This would need to be discussed with the individual school. There is training available from physiotherapists or our specialist outreach team if your child has a need that the school hasn't got experience of.**
17. **What special schools in Haringey do offer gcse's for the children? are there any in Haringey or in neighbouring boroughs? Check out the information page on special schools on our local offer or neighbouring boroughs. If you are thinking of special school, then you must visit and check your child meets the admissions criteria.**
18. **As the school does not offer gcse's will children get similar certificates? Yes they will do different qualifications. There is a handout which will be sent with this to explain.**
19. **Where do pupils (generally) move on to after Riverside? so children can attend 6-form without gcsc? Would children on Haringey 6form (special 6form) then be able to attend uni? Could we please get a list of schools who offer Haringey/special 6form? Mainly Haringey 6th form which has several pathways depending on the child's academic ability. This will determine whether they get the grades for Uni. You can find out more about post-16 options here [Preparing for Adulthood \(14 - 25 years\) | Haringey Council](#)**
20. **How do you book an individual appointment with your child to view the secondary school? I've contacted the schools and have had no reply from their SEN teams. Would it be**

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possible to discuss this with someone from Haringey SEN? *There are contact details for all the schools on the local offer. If you don't hear back after a few days, then contact the main number and ask for this to be followed up.*

21. **Does anyone know of any Independent special schools that you can pay to attend? Private special schools like Holmewood are paid for by EHCP - in what circumstances would this be the case?** *Haringey has a duty to spend public money wisely so we would always name a maintained school as opposed to an independent one if we had one that can meet the child's needs. If we have no school that can meet their needs then we will discuss this with you and consider naming an independent special school. We would then pay the fees and this is not means tested.*
22. **Are there any disabled role models based at Riverside school as mentors or teachers/ TAs?** *Yes there are several including ex-students*
23. **How many of your students have Down Syndrome? What about children who are waiting to be assessed for autism? Can data be on the website on needs breakdown or local offer?** *Talk to the schools when you visit if you want to know more about their experience of meeting different needs. All Haringey secondary schools are experienced in meeting the needs of children with Autism. We don't put this on the local offer as it is changing all the time.*
24. **Does social and medical criteria apply to children with SEN?** *The social and medical criteria applies to a very small number of children whose needs can only be met by one school. It would not apply to SEND support in general as all our schools should be able to meet their needs. It would need to be a specific need. You can talk this through with the school you are applying for and they will support you.*
25. **If my child has an EHCP is the application date cut off the same or do we have some sort of extension if school is being named on EHCP?** *It's the same date for everyone October 31st and don't miss it or you will go to the bottom of the list.*
26. **My son has shown us he is really keen to try for the 11plus exam, we are looking at Latymer. And I'd love to know if there is anything I need to know about in terms of admissions if we also want to apply for local haringey secondary as well?** *It will depend if he has an EHCP or SEND support but talk to the school and they will guide you. Just remember if he is going to a school in a different borough the support service can become disjointed. This may not matter to him but something to consider.*
27. **Could we select a school in Enfield as we have a ECHP for our child? We do not live on the border?** *Yes that is fine but just think about the services as one factor to consider.*
28. **Are you able to advise on neighbouring borough schools / policy? For us that's Barnet & Enfield. My child go to school in Haringey but live in Hackney will I get the blue form can choose school in hackney? Is there a session like this for Enfield and Barnet? Is there a way to get the details?** *All boroughs have their own systems and you apply to the one you live in. Check out their websites to find out more.*
29. **Is the process the same for mainstream and special applications? If we are in mainstream primary but want to go to a special school, did you say we should include a sort of 'supporting statement' explaining why in the annual review? we are in haringey and the school we have in mind is too?** *If you are moving from special to special it is the same. If you are moving from mainstream to special, then you must ask your SENDCo to make sure that a specialist teacher or EP is invited and contributes to your child's annual review. Then if everyone is in agreement, the annual review will go to panel and a move to special for Y7 agreed. You then fill in the blue form accordingly. Schools cannot refuse to support you with this because of their budget.*

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30. **Do parents/carers receive a copy of consultation?** *Yes this can be arranged with your caseworker*
31. **My son does not like the local school and just in case if he is offered that school, then what do we do?** *Discuss it with your caseworker and we can work with him to try and understand why and how to resolve this.*
32. **When are the open days to make decisions on which school is best?** September and October – they will be advertised on the secondary admissions page [School Admissions | Haringey Council](#)